THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Officials/officers who are found guilty are being punished by imposition penalties including removal or dismissal from service.

Contractors/firms found to have committed irregularities are banned from business dealings with the Department.

Benefits of CAC

3213. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and benefits of Carrier Access Code (CAC) and in what manner it help the consumers;

(b) whether TRAI have instructed Access providers to implement CAC within time bound programme;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing the CAC as on date;

(d) whether mobile network are readily compatible with CAC inspite of which the pro-consumer concept has not been enforced; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are two modes of Carrier Selection 'Call by Call' carrier selection and Carrier Pre-selection (CPS).

Call and Call Carrier Selection: It can be exercised by a subscriber by dialing four extra digits '10XY' called Carrier Access Code (CAC) after 'O' (for NLD calls) and '00' (for ILD calls), which will enable the switching system of the Access providers to identify the long distance carrier selected by the subscriber, and route the call accordingly. 'XY' is allocated by the licensor to National Long Distance Operators/International Long Distance Operators (NLDOs/ILDOs). '10XY' is to be followed by National (Significant) Number N(S)N.

Carrier Pre-selection (CPS): In this case, the subscriber can intimate his choice to the Access Providers (APs) in advance in a process called 'Polling', so that the four extra digits *i.e.* CAC could be embedded in the exchange subscriber data base in advance and with that the subscriber is not required to dial '10XY' before the National (Significant) Number *i.e.*

normal dialing procedure applies and extra four digits are not to be dialed by the subscriber. Subscriber's pre-recorded choice of NLDO/ILDO is automatically exercised by the Access Provider's switch/network.

Presently the choice of NLD or ILD operator is made by the Access Providers and Tariffs for the Outgoing National and International Long Distance calls are also decided by Access Providers. Once the carrier selection is implemented,subscribers can have the choice of selecting their ILD or NLD service providers. In this scenario NLD/ILD operator can offer lower tariffs directly to subscriber.

(b) and (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 24th July, 2002 had issued direction regarding the implementation of Call by Call and Carrier-Pre selection. For level playing field considerations, it was not correct for the TRAI to force Carrier Selection implementation by all others with the exception of BSNL.

Further, system modification in the Switches of Access Providers is required to enable them to implement Carrier Selection for NLD and ILD Services in their networks. The setup cost required for the upgradation of switches needs to be contributed by NLDOs and ILDOs. Since this up-gradation cost was on higher side, NLDO/ILDOs did not come forward towards the payment of their contribution of upgradation costs when some of the Access Providers demanded set up cost payments.

To review the current status on readiness of implementation of Carrier Access Code/Carrier Pre-Selection and to decide further necessary course of action, TRAI has already issued letters to all service providers on 3rd November, 2005 regarding status of implementation of carrier selection in their respective network.

On the request of some of the service providers last date for submission of response had been extended and the reply from some of the operators is still pending.

(d) and (e) Response from few service providers on the current status of readiness is still awaited. However, as per a communication received from COAI GSM service providers need to upgrade their switches and additional cost could be involved in the implementation of CAC/CPS.

Waiving of inter-connecting charges

3214. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Government